

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Gaylord Returns To OCPA

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Gaylord left his position as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and returned to DA to resume his role as the Deputy Chief of Public Affairs. He held that position a few years ago as a colonel before going to the Recruiting Command.

General Gaylord has considerable experience in Army Public Affairs, having served at OCPA during the mid to late 1970s.

Col. Stephanie L. Hoehne, previously the deputy, will continue work on the Public Affairs staff.



Command Information Division, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs,
Department of the Army

Breaking News:

Telling the Coalition story

*By Army Capt. Tim Beninato
28th Public Affairs Detachment
Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan*

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Working out of an old two-story building on Bagram Air Base, eight U.S. Army journalists write and publish the Department of Defense's only "daily" newspaper from the frontlines of Afghanistan.

Armed with cameras, computers and their M16A2 rifles, the men and women of the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Lewis, Wash., have the important job of keeping service members in the Combined Joint Task Force -180, and their



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Final Draft

Korea Chronicles

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (Ret)
Korea—H-Co., 7th Inf., Regt., 3rd Inf. Div. (1951,52,53)

The Case of the Missing Candy Bars

The Army never tolerated theft among its rank and file. Men could leave valuables around and feel confident no one would touch or take them.

Trust and confidence were— among other values — drilled into soldiers of my era. Even on the front lines of Korea, the very subject of theft, taking of other soldier's possessions, was unthinkable and rarely discussed.

Unfortunately, not all soldiers in Korea got the word or remembered warnings about taking from others without their approval. Rumors that fallen soldiers, those Killed In Action, being stripped of personal belongings surfaced. Some men on the line swore they'd shoot anyone seen "robbing" the dead. We also heard of men having been severely disciplined or even confined for such acts. Fortunately, not a single member of my platoon, the Heavy Machinegun Platoon, was involved in theft.

So, when a soldier came to me with complaints that candy he had kept in his bunker was missing, I surprised and, need I say, angered. I had to take action, and would ensure the culprit or culprits would answer for such acts.

At first blush, you'd be justified by laughing at such complaints. But, this was not petty. Sweets were a valued commodity to soldiers on the front. In many cases, candy subsidized C-rations which we all depended on for nutrition.

The Army did its best to feed soldiers hot meals along the line. But terrain, location and weather conditions, especially during the winter months, were obstacles in getting hot meals to frontline troops.

Also, when hot meals were available, they were served at the foot of mountains. Merely climbing down then back up discouraged many from eating hot chow. Further, the men on line had to eat in shifts. Obviously, they could not leave their positions to trek down to where food was served. Feeding and getting fed was a chore for both the cooks and the soldiers on the front.

Although we insisted everyone eat warm meals, many men passed and preferred canned rations supplemented with sweets, usually a candy bar or two.

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protalk

What does your command information officer know about your newspaper?

By Brian Lepley, U.S. Army Alaska's Command Information Officer and the 2001 Army Civilian Journalist of the Year

Like most Public Affairs personnel the Command Information Officer is often, shall we say, "multi-tasked?" I'm aware of CIOs doing such diverse, but non-CI, tasks as compiling photos for outside release, gathering media relations reports, and organizing the weekly potluck lunch.

More than community or media relations officers, the CIO has the potential to be spread thin. CR and MR should be narrowly deployed and efficiently targeted. It's my belief that these duties are nearly the same and could be effectively combined, but that's an essay for another time.

CI is any and all communication within the command, top to bottom and back again. It is by its nature amorphous and relentless. I had a boss who wanted me to catalog every public bulletin board within the command

and become the overseer of what was posted there. I wondered what was next;

a daily 5:30 a.m. conference call with all first sergeants to discuss what was being put out at that morning's formation?

Project bulletin board was squelched but the diversity and reach of CI at my installation marches on. The commanding general gets his weekly haircuts on Saturday mornings. After a year of this he brainstormed the PAO should get some CI churning at the barbershop. So came the edict to deliver CI in the cramped space, pronto. The installation of a scrolling marquee is underway.

This device, the U.S. Army Alaska website, the closed-circuit television channels, and the two marquees at intersections

are the present CI delivery devices I control, program, update and desperately try to keep current, interesting, and informative. These resources serve two posts 340 miles apart, by the way.

But as efficient and immediate as these devices are, they are secondary to any command's primary CI delivery vehicle: the newspaper. While I struggle to keep up with the electronic mediums, the newspaper gets the bulk of my attention and work.

When I became CIO of U.S. Army Alaska in 1999, there had been no one in the job for many years. There was much to be done and the newspaper became job one. It was a slim, ad-heavy volume with little coverage of the main war-fighting unit, the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade. With the addition of two soldiers and some reassigning, the ALASKA POST was the Keith L.

Ware Civilian Enterprise tabloid newspaper of the year in 2000.

It was an incredible year. With less than a full TDA, we produced dynamite issues. The editor was a Photoshop and layout wizard, the writers were experienced, and we turned a traditional 12-page tab with 50 percent advertising into a consistent 16-20 pager, 20 percent ads, with little to no editorial that was not locally produced.

And people started to read. I admit we've had no readership survey in my tenure. It's on the list of things to do and a tough nut to crack since I want to do it right. But anecdotally, from first-person reader reaction, the Alaska Post is a must-read. Wives, soldiers, civilians, and leaders—they've said to my staff, my bosses, and me —

they await its arrival and read it cover to cover. The most common complaint we receive is that delivery is late or didn't happen. We dropped to eight pages one holiday season due to staff being gone and I heard about it for two weeks – "What did you do to the paper?"

There is no more important CI product than the newspaper. It's fashionable to proclaim the certain death of the printed word and to champion the Internet as the world's news delivery system. With Transformation and digital communication taking over the Army, how can an ink-stained pile of pulp compete?

Pardon my skepticism, but, thanks for asking. When every soldier, wife, husband, child, retiree, and civilian employee served by my command has Internet access and *actually* relies on that to get their news, let me know; I'll join the chorus of "death to the newspaper." I just get the feeling that it won't happen in my lifetime.

There's no greater responsibility a CIO has than to the newspaper. I can't think of anything the Public Affairs Office does for its command, save the PAO advising the commander, than producing a high-quality, information-packed, entertaining newspaper. This must be the CIO's main duty.

I get the feeling there are CIOs who have never written a story for publication, never laid out pages, never took a photo of a news event the night of deadline for that week's issue. While it would give a CIO a better appreciation of the process to do some or all of that, it doesn't take that level of skill to ensure the newspaper is being all that it can be.

The CIO is the managing editor of the post newspaper. Many newspapers have such sweetheart contracts that perhaps the CIO feels the paper is in capable hands. Maybe I pay such attention to the ALASKA POST because we have a bare-bones contract and incredible and unlucky circumstances that keep staff and editors from arriving or staying long.

Regardless of a contract that staffs you like the WALL STREET JOURNAL or one that's worse than ours, a CIO should be involved in production of the newspaper. The editor runs the paper but the managing editor

must know what's going on. The CIO should read all locally-produced copy and review at least the layout of the front page, the commentary or editorial page, and any double trucks or photo spreads. The CIO should monitor the story log and be advised of missed deadlines. The CIO should be the person consulted when the editor needs help deciding what gets covered and what doesn't, what warrants a story and a photo or a stand-alone photo, or what gets a community notice. There are too many senior leaders' eyes seeing the paper for the CIO not to have input on content and coverage decisions.

I wonder how many CIOs out there fill in as editor when there isn't one or the editor is on leave. It would be easy for me to let one of the other soldiers do that job but in my time in Alaska there hasn't been any experienced enough to step in and keep the POST at even close to the level of quality that the readers expect. So I end up being the editor, a duty I've filled this year since March 1. It would be enlightening to know how many CIOs do or have done the same across the Army.

I hear about CIOs who get their first look at the newspaper the day it's printed. Some soldiers who come to U.S. Army Alaska are surprised at my level of involvement in newspaper production. I remind them that it has my name on the masthead and that it's U. S. Army Alaska's number one-CI tool, the most-visible PAO endeavor. Thousands seek it, read it and trust its contents. If it's wrong or boring in any way, people will talk about PAO in ways we shouldn't tolerate.

The responsibility to present your readers a dynamic-looking, information-filled, entertaining newspaper each week takes everyone on staff. Overseeing that process and ensuring the quality of the product should be the Command Information Officer.





Masthead Tells Story; It's Also Required

Some folks in our business continue to refer to it as the nameplate, but it's the masthead.

The nameplate is the name of the publication and is located on page one. It's also called the flag.

The masthead is found on one of the inside pages, anywhere on the first 10 pages.

A masthead is a statement that must appear in every issue of a Civilian Enterprise or Army Funded newspaper. It provides information such as the publishing organization, address, names of staff and command members.

Many CE newspapers include the names of the publisher, his address and phone

number and the all-important disclaimer that items advertised are available to all patrons regardless of their race, creed, color, sex, religion, etc. And finally, the notice that the paper is in no way endorsed by the Department of the Army or Defense.

A few papers have added a few extras: The Fort Knox **INSIDE THE TURRET** and Fort Leonard Wood's **GUIDON** include e-mail addresses of their staff members in the masthead. And, Fort Campbell's **COURIER** includes staffer e-mails with bylines to articles.

Remember: the masthead is required in every issue. It says so in AR 360-1.

Change of Address, Name Since 9-11

We've been in our current office for more than seven months—that's Room 2B720. We've even had a name change since 9-11.

We've announced our room number in Post-30-, and on every envelope that leaves our office. We've done the same about our division's name change.

Yet, we get envelopes—some rerouted from our old offices—and some still addressed to Information Strategy Division. We're not in Room 2D622 or 2E635 or whatever.

We're in Room 2B720 and our division name is Command Information Division. Please change your mailing envelopes and pass the word on to your printer/publisher.

References Can Help Headline Writers

A broad vocabulary is an invaluable asset to headline writing. Choosing the short, active and descriptive word isn't always easy.

But, there is one tool that can help you select the right word, and you have to take it from there. It's a book on synonyms and should be a part of your newspaper's reference library.

Several publications provide workable

headline vocabularies. Dictionaries are also a great source.

If you or a staffer have "word power" problems, using a thesaurus for headline writing may be your answer. A thesaurus will give you words that'll fit, but not always the ones that will tell the story.

A book on synonyms—which also provides meanings—may be the best bet and will help broaden your headline vocabulary.

Attribution Essential

Should an Army writer or editor change certain words or phrases of a speaker or interviewee who may have expressed himself or herself awkwardly or ungrammatically?

This age-old question got its roots in Army journalism during World War II. Several high-ranking officers after being interviewed, discovered certain utterances they made had been restructured. The theme was not disturbed, just some expressions corrected. In short, their words looked better in print than when spoken. Several “slanted” statements had been, let’s say, softened and restructured.

When we speak, especially extemporaneously, we’re forced to assemble our thought with lightning speed. Of course, we want to express ourselves as clearly, simply and as accurately as possible, complying with the standards of acceptable rules of grammar and decorum.

But, an occasional grammatical blunders or awkward sentences are bound to get past our “mental censors,” and a few “stupid” statements may hit the airways.

But, a verbal blunder or awkward statement printed on Army newspaper pages and attributed to an individual can—on some occasions—destroy the credibility of the story,

and in some rare instances, add to the story.

It depends on the person involved.

Take a well-know baseball celebrity, Yogi Berra. A story containing attributions from Yogi Berra on baseball—actually even about insurance—that included grammatical mistakes and awkward statements would probably make colorful copy—and they do!

But, if a distinguished military officer, enlisted soldier or civilian expressed similar bloopers attributed to him or her on a serious military subject, the effect of the story would most likely be destroyed. And perhaps the credibility of the person interviewed could as well.

Army writers and editors, therefore, should be analytical when editing quoted material, and in some cases consider corrections or clarifications based on the individual involved. And in all cases, use care when selecting replacement words.

Meanings can change. As Mark Twain once noted: there is a great difference between lightning and lightning bug.

But, to be sure any restructured statements carry the same tone and intent, always check the edited material with the source. The operative word is: ALWAYS!

Excellence in Verbal and Visual Presentations

SOUTHERN STAR WEEKLY (19th TSC, Korea—*tabloid*) for the layout in “Area IV Celebrates Army’s 227 Birthday,” by **Sgt. Raymond Piper**, published June. 21.

SCOUT (Fort Huachuca—*broadsheet*) for its full-page article “Dying To Be Thin—Medical Community Concerned About Effects Of Unregulated Dietary Supplements,” by **Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart**, published July. 3.

MOUNTAINEER (Madigan Army Med. Ctr.—*tabloid*) for the layout in “Health Fair Draws Hundreds Of Retirees,” story, photos and layout by **Sharon D. Ayla**, published in June.

CANNONEER (Fort Sill—*broadsheet*) for the layout in “IET Soldiers Learn Grenade Techniques,” story and photos by **Spc. Matt Meadows**, published June 20.

MONITOR (Fort Bliss—*tabloid*) for “Shakespeare For Soldiers,” by **Capt. James Crabtree**, published June 20.

INDIANHEAD (2ID, Korea—*tabloid*) for layout in “Strike ARTEP: TF Currahee Has A Plan For Success,” story by **Pfc. Charles Siler**, published June 7.

COUNTERMEASURE (U.S. Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker—*newsletter*) for its focus on stopping explosives accident in its June issue. **Paula Allman** is managing editor and **Blake Grantham** is the graphic artist.

ARKANSAS GUARD (Ark. NG—*magazine*) for “Protecting The Homeland,” by **Sgt. Joshua Carroll**, photos by **Capt. Craig S. Heathsscott**, published in the Spring issue.

POINTER VIEW (West Point—*tabloid*) for “Professors Get Hands-on With Civil War History,” story and photos by **Jim Fox**, published June 21.

CANNONEER (Fort Sill—*broadsheet*) for the photos in the layout “C Battery, 1st-19th FA Conquers Obstacles,” by **Spc. Gregory Morris**, published July 4.

LAMP (Fort Leavenworth—*tabloid*) for the layout in “For The Birds—Researchers Gather Facts On Fort’s Feathered Friends,” story and photos by **Prudence Siebert**, published June 27.

MONITOR (Fort Bliss—*tabloid*) for the display in “Looking Back At WBAMC (William Beaumont Army Medical Center),” story by **Clarence Davis III** and photo illustration by **Susan Laven**, published June 27. Also for the continuing cartoon, “Buster’s Battery,” by **Capt. James Crabtree**.

TRADOC (Fort Monroe) for the continuing series “Korea—50 Years Ago This Week,” by **Jim Caldwell**.

GUARD TIMES (NY NG—*tabloid*) for its page-one story “Pushing The Envelope—NY’s National Guard Leading Homeland Defense Efforts,” by **Lt. Col. Paul Fanning**, published Mar. –Apr.

TALON (Bosnia—*newsletter*) for the story, photos and layout in “Operation Harvest Ends With A ... Kaboom,” by **Spc. Christina Davis**, published June 28.

SENTINEL (Fort Hood—*broadsheet*) for “Cocaine Completely Destroys Family, Mind, Body,” by **Staff Sgt. Dale Terry**, published July 13.

BENELUX METEOR (80th ASG, *tabloid*) for the commentary “A Janitor’s Ten Lessons In Leadership,” by **Col. James Moschgat**, published June 18.

GUARDIAN EAST (Kosovo—*tabloid*) for its column, “Peacekeeper Profile—KFOR,” published along the outside margins on nearly every page. The column focuses on the men and women serving with KFOR. **Pfc. Kate McIsaac** is editor.

NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (Fort Lewis—*broadsheet*) for “Leaving The Classroom Behind,” by **Barbara Sellers** and for the two-page spread “Let Freedom Ring—Fort Lewis Proudly Celebrates A Patriotic Fourth Of July,” story and photos by **Pfc. David E. Stobaugh** and additional photos by **Joe Barrentine**, **James W. Symmonds** and **Pfc. Chris Charlton**, published July 12.

GUIDON (Fort Leonard Wood—*broadsheet*) for “Some Helpful Hints On Home Mortgage Refinancing,” by **Job Burleson**, published June 27.

BENELUX METEOR (80th ASG—*tabloid*) for the two-page spread “World War II GIs Return To Rest With Comrades,” story by **Tom Larscheid** and photos by **Troy Darr**, published July 2.

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY (25th Inf. Div—*broadsheet*) for the layout in “Infantry Soldiers Help Wahiawa School In Need,” story and photo by **Sgt. Frank Magni**. Also for the commentary “Respect, Common Courtesy Gone But Not Forgotten,” by **Spc. Stephanie L. Burt**. Both published June 27.

POST (Fort Dix—*broadsheet*) for “Patriotism, Then And Now — Living Up To America’s Legacy,” by **Steve Snyder**, published July 3.

FRONTLINE (Fort Stewart—*broadsheet*) for the layout in “Training For The Real World,” story by **Pfc. Katherine Robinson**, photos by **Spc. Mason Lowery** and **Pfc. Natalie Schlotman**. Also for the commentary “Reciprocating Respect—You Get What You Give In More Ways Than One,” by **Sgt. Akilah Clarke**. Both published June 20.

BELVOIR EAGLE (Fort Belvoir—*tabloid*) for the commentary “Battle Over Pledge Misguided,” by **Spc. Casandra Brewster**, published July 4.

SENTINEL (Fort McPherson—*tabloid*) for “Believe It, Achieve It—Character Bound Teaches Today’s Kids To Be Tomorrow’s Leaders,” by **Spc. Neil C. Jones**, published May 24.

NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (Fort Lewis—*broadsheet*) for Part II “Leaving The Classroom Behind—Learning The Ins And Outs Of Homeschooling,” by **Barbara Sellers**, published July 19.

AFPS (DoD) for the commentary “Constitution Writers Focused On Equality,” by **Jim Garamone**.

RIVER WATCH (COE, Memphis—*newsletter*) for “District Responds To Homeland Defense, Security Challenge,” by **Jim Pogue**, published in April-June. **Brenda Beasley** is editor.

RECRUITER JOURNAL (Hq Recruiting Cmd.—*magazine*) for “The Army Game Debuts In Los Angeles,” by **Jayson Sawyer**. Also for “Maintaining Positive Mental Balance,” by **Lawrence Lichtenfeld**. Both published in July.

WHEEL (Fort Eustis—*tabloid*) for the commentary “Illness To Sibling Serves As Wake-up Call,” by **Patti Bielling** and “Wellness No Longer Stigmatized,” by **Sgt. Paula Jones**. Both published June 6.

CASEMATE (Fort Monroe—*tabloid*) for “Day In The Life: An Army MP,” story and photos by **Diana McFarland**, published June 7.

BLIZZARD (Fort Drum—*tabloid*) for “Water Workout Not For Wimps — Pool Physical Therapy Provides Intense Workout For Injured Soldiers At Fort Drum,” by **Spc. Rachael Tolliver**, published May 16.

SOUNDOFF! (Fort Meade—*tabloid*) for “Melanoma—Escape Dangers By Learning To Protect Yourself,” by **Sarah Smith**, published July 18.

WARRIOR (Natick, Mass—*newsletter*) for an exceptionally outstanding July-August issue. Five of the five articles written by **Curt Biberdorf**, editor.

STANDARD (Fort Detrick—*tabloid*) for the layout in “FIRE!—Marines Head To Dix For Annual Qualification,” by **Karen Fleming-Michael**, published June 27.

BAYONET (Fort Benning—*broadsheet*) for “You’re In The SOUTH, Now, Honey,” by **Bridgett Siter**, photos by **Pfc. Brian Trapp**, published July 4.

Welcome to Georgia — some would say the real South. Florida doesn’t count since it’s mostly populated with Yankees. Louisiana still belongs to the French, and no one wants to talk about Alabama. This is it, folks.

If you’ve lived at Fort Benning for more than six months, you already know all you need to know about The South. You can sit on the porch (no spitin’). The rest of you come with me. I’ll show you a thing or two about Southern livin’ as you’ll know it, way down here on the Chattahoochee. **Bridgett Siter**

DESERT GUARDIAN (Saudi Arabia—*newsletter*) for “Article 15, Non-judicial Punishment In The Army,” by **Maj. Melinda A. Comfort**, published June 13.

ARMY FLIER (Fort Rucker—*broadsheet*) for “Waiting For The Stork,” by **Pvt. Matthew Roe**. Also for the editorial “Breaking Through To Lead The Way”, published June 27. Both published June 27.

MERCURY (AMEDD, Fort Houston—*tabloid*) for “Seeking The Roots Of Dust Off: Helicopter Proves Self As Lifesaver In Korean War...Part Two,” by **Harry Noyes**, published in June. This is part of the monumental series “Medics Of The Coldest War—Korean War 50th Anniversary.”

It is tempting but wrong to assume that the magic of helicopter evacuation triggered a lovefest between dedicated flyers and grateful fighters. Not always. ...

Unfortunately, the helicopter’s very success created expectations it could not always meet. There were ground troops that had negative impressions of helicopter units. ...

...They argued, logically if not fairly, that Infantrymen had to enter dangerous places and choppers should too. Higher authority rather than the pilots should decide, they said. **Harry Noyes**

SCOUT (Fort Huachuca—*broadsheet*) for the commentary “Watered Down Results Are In—All H2O The Same,” by **Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks**. Also for the layout in “One Stop Pet Shop.” Both published July 16.

TRAINING TIMES (100th ASG, Germany—*tabloid*) for the layout in “Nuernburg,” story and photos by **Chuck Gordon**, published June 25. Also for the paper’s marked editorial and graphic improvements.

Karen Parrish is editor.

DESERT VOICE (Kuwait—*newsletter*) for “Evolution—Army Watercraft Enters Transformation Stages,” story and photos by **Sgt. Ty Stafford**, published June 26.

POST (Fort Dix—*broadsheet*) for “Dedicated To Craft And Country—Williams Towered Over National Pastime,” by **Steve Snyder**, published July 12.

CANNONEER (Fort Sill—*broadsheet*) for the layout in “Recruits Learn Difference Between ‘Quick,’ ‘Dead,’” story and photos by **Spc. Gregory Morris**, published July 18.

FRONTLINE (Fort Stewart—*broadsheet*) for the layout in “Expert Infantry Badge—Precision, Power Key To EIB Success,” story and photos by **Pfc. Katherine Robinson**, published June 6.

HERALD UNION (104th ASG, Germany—*tabloid*) for Preventing Family Violence—Family Advocacy Program, Social Work Services Charged With Education, Intervention and Treatment,” by **David Ruderman**, published June 25.

About The Field



Fort Irwin's TIEFORT TELEGRAPH has a new face at the editor's desk. She's a veteran Army journalist, **Sgt. Michelle Helms**. Returning from a tour in Korea editing the SOUTHERN STAR WEEKLY, **Helms** succeeds **Sgt. Tom Bradbury**, who will be taking on some new duties within the PA office, but will keep his hands in writing.

Brett McMillan left the Army as a sergeant and returned to Walter Reed's STRIPE wearing civvies as assistant editor. **McMillan** ranks with the best in Army journalism.

The Fort Hood SENTINEL has a new addition to its staff of professionals: **Mollie Miller**. Those who read (*past tense*) Fort Rucker's ARMY FLIER will recognize her name from the many outstanding features published in the Living Section. **Miller** PCS'd to Fort Hood with her husband.

Lt. Col. **James Bullinger**, formerly SETAF's PAO, is now PAO of Fort Rucker's Army Aviation Center. The post's PAO is **Ken Holder**. The post's ARMY FLIER was the 2001 KLW winner in the Civilian Enterprise Metro category. The ARMY FLIER is the only post newspaper to run editorials. Most other papers publish commentaries.

While on the subject of commentaries, Fort Belvoir's BELVOIR EAGLE has used a novel approach in its presentation of commentaries. It's Eagle On The Column which asks opinions five or six members of the fort about various relevant subjects, ties or links a commentary to the subject. Example: The July 4 issue asked: What Are Your Thoughts On The Court Decision Regarding The Pledge Of Allegiance? The tie-in commentary, Battle Of Pledge Misguided, written by **Spc. Casandra Brewster**, accompanied

the person-on-the-street Q&A. **Wayne V. Hall** is editor and **Don Carr**, PAO.

A few changes at Redstone Arsenal's REDSTONE ROCKET. **Staff Sgt. Sharon McBride** has gone overseas and Beth Skarupa, who is expecting, decided to become a full-time mom. For a few weeks **Skip Vaughn**, editor, and **Sandy Riebeling**, two-time J-Award winner, held down the fort until **Spc. Evan Morrow** joined the staff.

One of the most prolific photojournalists in the Army's journalism community has to be **Dennis Ryan**, photojournalist with Fort Myer's PENTAGRAM. He joins **Joe Barrentine**, NORTHWEST GUARDIAN; **Karl Weisel**, HERALD UNION, **Staff Sgt. Gregory Withrow**, IRONSIDE; **Karen Fleming-Michael**, STANDARD, **Pfc. Katherine Robinson**, FRONTLINE; **Paul Haring**, PENTAGRAM; **Brian Lepley**, ALASKA POST; to mention a few, who can tell a the Army's story with words and pictures.

ALASKA POST has a new person at the main desk. It's **Sgt. 1st Class David Abrams**, who must now wear two hats: editor and PA Supervisor. The POST has been without an editor for many months.

SETAF's OUTLOOK has added a few new faces to its staff. Currently, **Peggy Heatherman** is in the editor's seat. Staffers who have been around for a few months include **Spc. Michael Walkmeyer** and **Pfc. C. Terrell-Turner**. **Sgt. Thorin Sprandel**, of the 173 Airborne Brigade's PA shop, provides support.

Fort Riley's POST has a new editor: **Lori A. Bultman**. Her previous assignment was with the Special Operations Center at Fort Bragg. (more on page 16)



The Making of a Good Army Journalist

More thoughts from the Field

The good Army reporter, like any good reporter, must be well acquainted with the fundamentals governing journalistic writing. The good reporter should learn the characteristics of journalism as an occupation, the newspaper as an organization and communicative tool of the commanding general, the news product, and the basic rules of journalism and newspaper writing. A good reporter should not only have the ability to gather facts, but also perspective, insight and the ability to interpret those facts to appeal to the audience for which he or she is writing. Most important, in my opinion, a good Army reporter must be honest and have integrity to paint a clear and concise picture for the audience of the facts which he or she has gathered.

Bernard Little, editor, STRIPE, Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Military journalists are a privileged lot. Most bring an inherent amount of talent into the service and the MDINFOS seal of approval means they can spell and make verbs agree. Well, most of them... Then they are challenged to "tell the Army story." Depending on their first assignments (and their first supervisors), they are immediately given access and told to write about a broad spectrum of Army life. I can't think of any other group of soldiers who are ever afforded such a grand stage on which to act out an Army career. But to whom much is given, much is expected.

Important qualities for an Army reporter are probably incorporated in the same principles that guide all soldiers - the principles of "Be - Know - Do." The bottom line: to have credibility, be a soldier first.

And not just any soldier. To be effective, you need to know more than the basic load of soldier skills. Research what you're writing about. Dig up background information on the unit and soldiers you're interviewing. Be intelligent about what you're writing about so you won't write a naïve and ineffective story. Find something that informs or entertains the reader. Merely throwing words and photos on a newspaper page does not constitute coverage. Find an angle that helps tell the story. Paint word pictures. Learn how to take better notes. Pay attention to what soldiers say and use their quotes to tell the story. Look for virtue and heroism. Market the Army's image. Put the soldier first.

Good reporters work long hours. Develop a work ethic that gets the job done. Stay late. Work weekends. Strive for excellence. Go beyond what's adequate or what fits into a cushy 8 to 5 garrison lifestyle. Rethink the story. First drafts are first drafts. Rewrite. Rewrite. Rewrite again, when necessary. Take the story home with you and toss and turn at night, wondering whether you got it right or if you could have done a better job. Develop your professionalism. Take pride in your work. Be -- Know -- Do!

Roger Teel (1999 Keith L. Ware Civilian Print Journalist of the Year), PAO, U.S. Army, Wuerzburg

Obviously, a good Army reporter needs to be a good writer...he or she needs to have a solid understanding of grammar and language. Additionally, a good reporter is a good listener ... someone who actively listens and is not just in the room for the ride. Other qualities include the ability to analyze and interpret data, charts and messages; the ability to talk to and deal with people from all walks of life -- interpersonal skills/people skills; and the ability to know when to push and when to pull back.

Al Swartz, PAO, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command

A good Army reporter finds stories where others fail to see them. He or she is meticulous about facts - specially names - knowing this may be that individual's lifetime 15 minutes of fame. A good reporter knows how to write from the heart. He/she is NEVER late for an interview and is always prepared. Above all, a good Army reporter believes in the Army and the values of soldiers.

Bob Bolia, PAO, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort McPherson



From left — Page one lead-in and the two-page spread of the June 7 Fort Monroe CASEMATE (tabloid) featuring “A Day In The Life: An Army MP,” written and photographed by **Diana McFarland**. **Right** — FLIGHTFAX (newsletter), an information-packed newsletter, produced by U.S. Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker. The June issue shown was edited by **Judy Wilson** with graphics by **Danny Clemmons**.

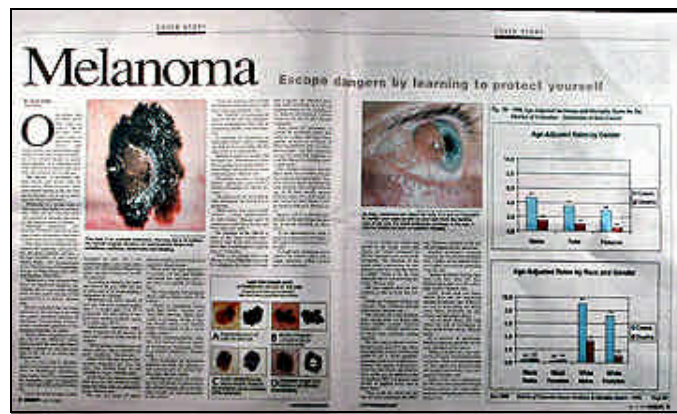


From top left — Another action-packed sports photo by one of the premiere photographers in the Army’s journalism community: **Joe Barrentine**. This photo appeared in the July 12 issue of Fort Lewis’ NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (broadsheet). The July-August issue of the WARRIOR (newsletter) is another well-packaged, informative and interesting newsletters. It’s produced by the U. S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass. **Curt Biberdorf** is editor, writer and photographer. The July 4 issue of Fort Hood’s SENTINEL carried a special 72-page tabloid insert celebrating the 60th anniversary of Fort Hood. Contributors to the special included **Margaret A. Brewster, Stephanie N. Carpenter, R.D. Straight, Yolanda C. Jones, Denise D. Molina, Sarah Maxwell, Mark Albright** with special thanks to **Lucille Boasley**. Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. also celebrated its 60th with two tabloid specials, a total of 40 pages, inserted in the Arsenal’s tabloid, ARSENAL ACCENTS. **Barbara Slifer** is PAO/editor. **Left** — Another excellent presentation by **Pfc. Katherine Robinson**, staffer with Fort Stewart’s FRONTLINE. The single-page spread on the Expert Infantryman’s Badge appeared June 6.

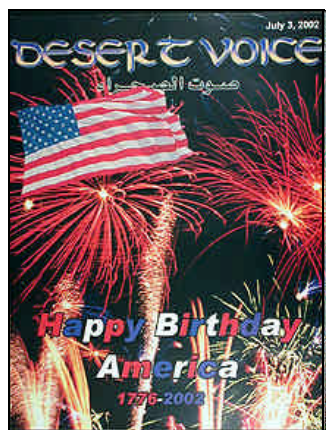




From left — The NORTHWEST GUARDIAN, weekly broadsheet from Fort Lewis, gave its readers a striking presentation July 12: a double truck. This spread was written by **Pfc. David E. Stoubaugh** with photos provided by **Pfc. Chris Charlton, James W. Symmonds, Joe Barrentine** and **Pfc. David E. Stoubaugh**. Fort Detrick's STANDARD (*tabloid*) has been recognized with a Journalist Award for its excellent content, writing and innovative layouts. The June 27 issue is an example of its an excellent visual presentation. The spread, produced by **Karen Fleming-Michael**, is titled, "FIRE!—Marines Head To Dix For Annual Qualification."



From top left — The RECRUITER JOURNAL (*magazine*), published by the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, grabs readers' attention by its bold, creative and innovative covers. The one on the July issue was developed by cover-design specialist **Joyce Knight**. **Pearl Ingram** is the editor, **Beverly Harrison** is assistant editor and **S. Douglas Smith** is the Recruiting Command's PAO. Fort Meade's SOUNDOFF! covers topics few Army newspapers come close to. The one displayed in its July 18 issue is one most post and unit newspapers should discuss: "Melanoma—Escape Dangers By Learning To Protect Yourself," written by **Sarah Smith**. Almost everyone comes under the sun's rays and is in danger of skin cancer. So why aren't more newspapers discussing Melanoma?



Left — The DESERT VOICE (newsletter), Kuwait, came up with eye-grabbing cover for its July 3 issue, the handiwork of **Spc. Christen Coulon**, who also writes and served as co-editor of the issue with **Spc. Anna-Marie Carey**.

From page 1

Loved ones back home, informed on the efforts in the war on terrorism. Each day, the 28th PAD produces and distributes CJTF-180's command information newspaper, FREEDOM WATCH, to service members stationed at military bases across Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

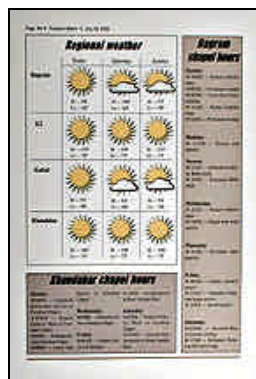
The FREEDOM WATCH newspaper is slightly different in size and composition than a traditional military newspaper. Most post broadsheets are

(weekly) edition of the paper offers readers eight to 10 pages, contains the same general composition as the daily edition, and includes dining and religious service hours, commentaries, an expanded sports section and other command information articles necessary to keep people informed about local command issues.

The paper is primarily distributed via e-mail to unit commanders and representatives. It is also up-

office, dining facility, post exchange, morale and phone tents, and anywhere else they find themselves standing in line.

Connecting readers with a newspaper they want to read every day is the primary goal of the 28th PAD. If you want people to read a newspaper then you have to know the target audience and what they want to read about. It comes down to finding, writing and printing the news and stories people



published weekly and have page sizes of 22 by 14 inches, and may be up to 42 pages. FREEDOM WATCH is published daily, has a page size of eight-and-a-half by 11 inches, and may have four to 10 pages.

The daily edition of *Freedom Watch*, published Saturday through Thursday, usually consists of four news pages that include a hard news story, a feature article, current news, sports briefs, a today in history piece and a two-day regional weather forecast. The Friday

loaded onto the CJTF-180 SIPRNET (secure internet) and the Central Command's website (www.centcom.mil) as well. Once units receive the electronic version of *Freedom Watch*, they print and display it on their unit bulletin boards.

On Bagram Air Base, the newspaper is printed on a laser printer, then hand delivered to more than 20 locations where it is stapled to bulletin boards in high traffic areas. Service members can read the newspaper at locations such as the post

want to see and read about.

Bagram, like most of the other military bases in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, houses Coalition forces from several different countries. To provide a command information paper that caters to the Coalition's diverse reading audience, the newspaper must offer a broad range of stories and features. Past editions of the paper have featured articles about Spanish medical personnel caring for Afghans in local clinics, the Italian engineers repairing the Bagram Air Base

runway, and how a Polish army doctor saved the life of one of his soldiers who was injured when he stepped on a land mine.

The 28th PAD publishes and prints the FREEDOM WATCH newspaper out of a small office of a building called 'Motel 6.' Eight soldiers accomplish the mission with the support of one telephone line, three Internet connections and computer equipment powered by an Army generator.

The journalists obtain the majority of their story ideas through conversations with service members, networking and by using their instincts to root out good stories. 28th PAD soldiers also accompany combat units on missions, catch rides on military helicopters or climb aboard Air Force transport planes to cover stories at more distant locations.

There are few restrictions placed on the journalists in the 28th PAD. Stories about certain special operations forces, discussion about military tactics and techniques or features about current or future operations are considered off-limits for security reasons. Aside from the few limitations common to military public affairs, these journalists can

cover almost any story they pursue. Stories and photos are cleared by the 28th PAD commander before being published in the newspaper. If there is any question on whether a story or photo may fall into a non-releasable category, the CJTF-180 public affairs officer makes the final judgment call.

As with all newspapers, having a copy in hand to

Using vacuum cleaners to keep areas dust free, keeping exterior windows and doors constantly closed and always covering equipment with plastic bags helps to protect equipment from Afghanistan's harsh elements.

read at your own discretion is a privilege soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan are forced to live without. The 28th PAD, having limited print capabilities, is unable to produce mass copies of the newspaper for distribution. The nearby city of Bagram, with its poor economy and lack of printing capabilities, offers no solution in the way of contracting out newspaper production. There are Psychological Operations units with printing press capabilities located on Bagram, but their mission and the amount of time needed to build print templates one page at a time, prevents them from being able to support us in making copies of the paper to hand out.

The Afghan climate, with its hot temperatures and extremely dusty conditions, presents a constant threat to computers and other electronic equipment. 28th PAD soldiers spend a considerable amount of time maintaining equipment each day. Canned-air is a precious commodity and it is used sparingly to maintain clean and serviceable equipment. Using

vacuum cleaners to keep areas dust free, keeping exterior windows and doors constantly closed and always covering equipment

with plastic bags helps to protect equipment from Afghanistan's harsh elements.

Aside from the many challenges experienced so far during their deployment, the soldiers in the 28th PAD are successfully performing their command information mission in support of the CJTF-180 and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Those interested in reading past and current editions of FREEDOM WATCH on the World Wide Web can visit the U.S. Central Command website at the address listed below <http://www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm>

Members of the 28th PAD are: Capt. Timothy Beninato, Commander; Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson, NCOIC; Sgt. Reeba Critiser, editor, FREEDOM WATCH; Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr., sports; and staff writers Spc. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleaszzer Craig.

'9-11+nine' Workshop Reviews War Coverage, Looks Ahead

By Gary Sheftick, ARNEWS Director

About 90 Army journalists participated in the newspaper workshop in Springfield, Va., June 16-20, including instructors. The Military District of Washington hosted the conference for Army Public Affairs.

In keeping with the theme "9-11+nine," seminars reviewed coverage of Operation Noble Eagle, the Pentagon recovery, and the War on Terrorism over the past nine months. Other classes reviewed writing, photojournalism and layout skills. And some presentations looked to the future, outlining Newspaper Transformation, and leveraging the Internet.

V Corps' Bill Roche and Lt. Col. Joe Richard provided a controversial seminar on "Webzines." They predicted that Web magazines will someday replace hard-copy unit newspapers, especially in the field. They demonstrated the cutting-edge V Corps Web magazine and maintained that most of their soldiers, even when deployed, have laptops to surf the Internet and download e-mail.

Other guest instructors came from the DINFOS Intermediate Photojournalism course, the Army Environmental Center, Community and Family Support Center, MDW, Fort Belvoir and of course, OCPA.

The workshop was opened by Maj. Gen. Larry Gottardi, chief of Public Affairs. He presented Master Craftsman awards to Irene Brown, editor of West Point's POINTER VIEW and Karl Weisel, editor of the HERALD UNION in Germany. He also presented a J-Award to Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler from the Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District. Then he talked about the importance of Command Information and "telling soldiers first."

Col. Rich Breen, outgoing PAO for MDW, presented a seminar on how the Military District of Washington facilitated the press and provided internal coverage of the Pentagon recovery operation. MDW's Thomas Mani also made a presentation on the MDW News Service.

Fort Belvoir PAO Don Carr presented CE contracting details and CI coverage of relevant

issues.

Charles Krohn, the principle deputy chief of Public Affairs provided a talk on the workshop's last day about "unintended consequences" and how tough breaks can end up beneficial in the long run. He also described how he provides daily PA Support to the secretary of the Army.

OCPA Sgt. Maj. Phil Prater was the last speaker, and raised some eyebrows when he said that all military journalists would be pulled from garrison newspaper assignments over the next few years. He said that all soldiers would be migrating from TDA to MTOE units and most newspaper journalists who changed assignments after Oct. 1 would probably not be replaced.

Participants at the workshop included five PA practitioners from Europe, three from the Pacific, many editors and writers from installation weeklies, and a number of reserve-component journalists.

Most of the participants filled out a three-page critique sheet of the workshop before leaving.

Feedback was wide-ranging. Some of the participants said they wanted more of the "give and take" policy discussion like the one Wednesday afternoon. Others said stick to the basics of instruction.

Master Sgt. Jon Connor's new class on newsroom management received rave reviews because of his practical advice on how to shorten the stress and long hours on press day.

A number of participants said the newspaper production exercise Wednesday was the highlight of the workshop. And again, many said it was the journalism experiences, passionate commentaries on Army newspapers, PA and combat war stories of retired Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylick-jian that made the workshop worth attending.

We announced at the end of the workshop that Fort Knox was tentatively planning on hosting the next newspaper seminar in the fall. However, the Louisville workshop has been postponed to next spring upon request of Fort Knox Public Affairs. In the meantime, the OCPA-CI team is available to conduct one- or two-day regional workshops upon request.



Recent awardees: Barbara Sellers, NORTHWEST GUARDIAN, for her series on marriage in the military; Jim Fox, POINTER VIEW, for his consistently outstanding articles; Denny Cox, SOUNDOFF!, for his excellent features; SOUNDOFF! for its coverage of real-world issues.

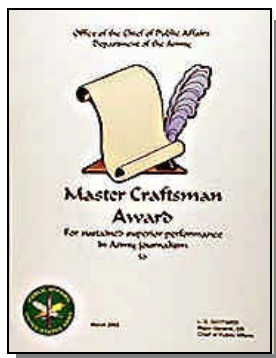
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Two Awards

Tim Hipps; Sandy Riebeling; Bridgett Siter; Stacy Harris

One Award

Larry Barnes; Tonya Riley; Nel Lampe; Dave Snyder; Jean Offutt; Wayne V. Hall; Mitch Frazier; Adriene Foss; Michael Meines; Rick Brunk; Lucille Anne Newman; Casandra Brewster; Monica Garreau; Harry Noyes; Mindy Anderson; Kim Rieschling; Roger T. Conroy; Jill Mueller; Julia Ayers; David Ruderman; Irene Brown; Karl Weisel; Tom Larscheid; Michael Mowrer; Linda Lyly; Rosalyn Peterkin; Rachael Tolliver; Robert Fox; Fred-Otto Egeler; Barbara Sellers; John Rickey; Jim Fox; Denny Cox



PUBLICATION AWARD

Three Awards

Army Flier; Courier

Two Awards

Inside the Turret; Casemate; Herald Union; Frontline; Guardian; Fort Riley Post; Ironside; Monitor; Castle

One Award

Guidon; Belvoir Eagle; Fort Dix Post; Desert Voice; Herald-Post; Pointer View; Torii; Talon; Lamp; Seoul Word; On Guard; Duty First; Training Times; Prairie Soldier; Citizen; Redstone Rocket; Fort Carson Mountaineer; Castle Comments; Mercury; Alaska Post; Bulletin; Bayonet; Benelux Meteor; Tobyhanna Reporter; Riverside; Indianhead; Banner; Tiefert Telegraph; Outlook; Paraglide; Phoenix Rising; Pentagonagram; Signal; Kwajalein Hourglass; Buckeye Guard; Countermeasure; Bear Facts; Tower Times; Leader; Medical Minute; Globe; Fort Hood Sentinel; Triad; Warrior Leader; Mountaineer (Madigan Army Med. Cent.); Engineer Update; Recruiter Journal; Yankee Engineer; New York District Times; Blue Devil II; Missile Ranger; Northwest Guardian; Standard; Constellation; Soundoff!

Lori Egan—Fort Benning *Bayonet*
Carolee Nisbet—Fort Dix *Post*
Rick Brunk—Fort Leonard Wood *Guidon*
Larry Barnes—Fort Knox *Inside the Turret*
Irene Brown—West Point *Pointer View*
Karl Weisel—104th ASG *Herald Union*

About the Field—From page 9

The staff of Fort Lee's TRAVELLER has jumped from one to three. **Spc. Jamie Carson**, who carried the load of producing the weekly CE tabloid, can now look at **Spc. Jorge Gomez** and **Michelle Weiss** for support. **Gomez** and **Weiss** are doing some great work.

Recruiting Command's RECRUITER JOURNAL has added a graphic designer to the staff: **Joyce Knight**. Her focus for now

is on designing the magazine's covers. She has come up with some "dynamic" cover presentations.

Sgt. Raymond Piper is scheduled to take the editor's seat of Fort Stewart's FRONTLINE —barring a change in plans. **Piper** has worked on several newspapers and is a pro in this business. He joins a talented crew at Fort Stewart's PA shop. **Maj. Michael G. Birmingham** is PAO.

FOUR-STAR PUBLICATIONS

Broadsheets

ARMY FLIER
BAYONET
CANNONEER
COURIER

FRONTLINE
GUIDON
INSIDE THE TURRET
NORTHWEST GUARDIAN

PARAGLIDE
POST (Fort Dix)
SCOUT
SENTINEL (Fort Hood)

Tabloids

ALASKA POST
BEAR FACTS
BELVOIR EAGLE
BENELUX METEOR
BLIZZARD
CRUSADER
CONNECTICUT GUARDIAN
ENGINEER UPDATE
ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE
GUARD TIMES
HERALD UNION

INDIANHEAD
LAMP
LEADER
MERCURY
MONITOR
MOUNTAINEER (Fort Carson)
ON GUARD
PENTAGRAM
PRAIRIE SOLDIER
POINTER VIEW
REDSTONE ROCKET

REPORTER
REVELLEER
SOUNDOFF!
STRIPE
TRAINING TIMES
TRAVELLER
TRIAD
WHEEL

Magazines/Newsletters

BLUE DEVIL II
BUCKEYE GUARD
CASTLE
CASTLE COMMENTS
CONSTELLATION
COUNTERMEASURE
DAGGER
DESERT VOICE
DISTRICT DIGEST
EAST GATE EDITION
FEEDBACK
FLAGSHIP

FLIGHTFAX
GREEN MOUNTAIN GUARD
INSCOM JOURNAL
KAWAJALEIN HOURGLASS
MESSENGER
PACIFIC CONNECTION
PHOENIX RISING
RECRUITER JOURNAL
RIVERWATCH
SUSTAINER
TALON
TOWER TIMES

TRAINING JOURNAL
TRANSLOG
TULSA DISTRICT NEWS
WARRIOR
WATER'S EDGE
WILMINGTON DISTRICT
NEWS
YANKEE ENGINEER

The 2ID (Korea) INDIANHEAD has made many marked editorial and graphic improvement during the past six months thanks to its creative editor **Spc. Heather Hilton**. **Maj. Brian Maka** is the division PAO. The INDIANHEAD was just awarded a Journalist Award. It should be on its way.

SEOUL WORD, the weekly CE tabloid of the 34th Support Group, Korea, has a new editor, **Sgt. Jonathan Del Marcus**. And his presence is already being noticed. The WORD looks and reads great. **Joe Campbell** is CI officer and **John A. Nowell** is the group's PAO.

West Point's POINTER lists several new names in its masthead: **Spc. Eric Bartelt** is assistant editor, and **Kathleen Eastwood** is a staff writer. The remainder of the talented crew are: **Irene Brown**, editor, **Jim Fox** and **Spc. Nate Jastrzemski**, staff writers. **Joseph V. Tombrello** is CI chief and **Lt. Col James E. Whately** is PAO.

Master Sgt. Dave Melancon, formerly NCOIC, 2nd Inf. Div., PAO, Korea, is on his way to Germany to join the PA shop of the 1st Armored Division. **Melancon** has extensive PA background.

Among the most popular sweets were Hershey bars, Butterfingers and Chuckle jelly bars all of which were most often available at chow lines.

Also, when soldiers received packages of foodstuffs from home — which we called C.A. R.E. packages — they usually shared the contents with other members of the squad. Those wrapped were held over for other days and stuffed between sandbags.

We kept most of our wrapped food tucked between sandbags; the bags kept eatables cool in summer and cold in winter. In my bunker, which was also a machinegun bunker, dozens of bars, jars of jams and canned food could be seen stashed between the bags. But, we did not place food by the aperture for fear muzzle blasts when firing would damage the food.

The soldier showed me his bunker, shared with three members of his squad. Each swore they had not taken the chocolate bars; each also expressed anger that someone would steal from a fellow soldier. Something had to be done, they said. Strange that other gun positions had not complained about stolen food.

The squad leader and I concluded the thief had to have crawled along the right side of the position and, with one arm stretched into the aperture, pulled the bars located at the forward end of the bunker by the aperture. The culprit had to have known where the candy was stashed. But who? And, this took place at night.

The machinegun bunker was always occupied. At night, at least three men slept in the position while one soldier stood guard outside; each pulled two-hour guard shifts in a foxhole by the left side of the emplacement.

It seems several bars had been taken the night before and a few the other nights. And, why only chocolate?

The bars stashed further back in the bunker were undisturbed. Only the bars near the right side of the aperture were taken.

Then the suggestion! Let's place several bars between the bags and bait the culprit. I was asked to stay at the position and help catch the thief. The men would pull guard outside as usual, and I'd sleep in one of the corners and

would be awakened near midnight and stay awake for 30 minutes or so. What about the squad leader? Well, he had an excuse. He had to stay with one of the squad's other machinegun because the position was short a man.

I agreed — reluctantly. This problem had to be solved. We were fighting a war. Luckily, we were not involved in any heavy action the first night I stayed in the bunker. But, on the second night some enemy activity alerted everyone to man positions so everyone was up. We heard a small-arms fire in front, but nothing involving us directly. The artillery was called in.

Third night, the soldier, who lost the candy was also in the bunker, awakened me saying he heard sounds by the aperture. I crawled onto the gun table, the dirt mound on which the machinegun is mounted. My plan was to grab the hand or arm of the culprit and scare the hell out of him.

In retrospect, I should have gone outside to the right of the position. I didn't want to create a ruckus by running out of the emplacement and down the trench.

As I stretched close to where the sound came from and near where the candy bars were, I was poised to act when I came eye-to-eye with the alleged culprit. We were inches apart. Two piercing eyes greeted me. Below the eyes, an elongated nose and whiskers.

I was staring straight into the face of the biggest rat I had ever seen. It had to be more than five pounds. Without flinching, the rat looked at me, grabbed one of the wrapped chocolate bars between its teeth, slowly turned around and went on its way as I tried quickly to retreat while stretched out on my stomach. Amazing how that brief encounter could cause an on-the-spot liquid weight loss.

I decided then and there I'd no longer eat chocolates while in Korea. Many months of abstinence wasn't easy. Unfortunately, years later I more than made up for those many months I went without chocolates back in 1953. I wondered too years later if that rat also lost some liquid weight in our brief encounter.